

Our Shanghai and South China Missions.



The Dragon used in an Anti-Gambling Demonstration.

THE city of Shanghai is the chief commercial centre of China, and is consequently a place of great importance. Here are to be found a large number of missions, but a great deal of the work is necessarily of a purely business kind or has to do with literature and printing, and the Chinese city, with a population of about 300,000 people, is probably one of the neediest spots in all China. In the foreign settlements there are about 540,000 Chinese, so that the total Chinese population amounts to about 840,000.

The burden of our responsibility for the evangelisation of this city with these teeming thousands is very heavy. We have only one church in the native city itself, and we wish we could have two or three more; we have also boys' and girls' elementary schools. Institutional Church work, if we could afford to carry it on, would be enormously useful.

In addition to the work just described, we have two centres in the foreign settlement area of Shanghai. In one, which is situated in a densely populated part, we have our principal Chinese Church, which is looked upon as the mother church of Shanghai and district. This church is one of the strongest in China, and it is not only self-supporting and self-governing, but it is becoming more and more self-propagating and has assumed responsibility for a large part of our country work. The Chinese hospital is situated near the church, and to that hospital over 95,000 visits are paid by men and women in the course of the year, and our in-patients total about 1,900 per annum. Church extension in all our districts has been helped, if not created, as a result of our medical work. Work is done among women who come for a few months at a time for instruction and training and afterwards, either as biblewomen or as ordinary church members, do a great deal to spread the Gospel and to help the less instructed Christians.

In another part of the foreign settlement we have the Medhurst compound, with its Boarding Schools for boys and girls. Here also we have our Theological Institute for the training of preachers for Evangelistic and Church work.

There are over 100 boys in the boys' school and they work up to the standard of the Junior Local Cambridge Examination, and we are hoping soon to complete arrangements in union with other missions for carrying promising pupils through higher courses and thus to round-off our work and complete our Shanghai mission. We must use every effort to equip our students to exercise a strong Christian influence on the intellectual life of the nation.

We have about 40 girls in the Girls' Boarding School, and one of the finest Christian women in China is a devoted teacher in this school. Active Christian work of various kinds—Y.M.C.A., Christian Endeavour, Sunday School—is a feature of our schools and the pupils are taught practical Christianity in numerous ways.

Besides the work in the city we have three stretches of country district in which there are 15 stations as centres of work. We need about 50 additional Chinese workers if we would establish a self-propagating church in the field for which we are responsible. If the Society could have a 50% increase on the money at present available for its China mission we should, a generation hence, see a church in all our districts equal to the task of evangelising the fields we occupy. At present we have 30 Chinese preachers, teachers, etc., and 714 church members.

OUR AMOY FIELD.

No field in China has done more along the lines of self-support than our churches in this region, thanks very largely to the efforts of our veteran missionary, the Rev. J. Macgowan. In another respect this field is in the forefront ; we refer to the mission comity, co-operation and union which exist.

No Society in China has done more for union and co-operation than the L.M.S. When there were only 17 missionaries of all societies in China, our missionaries drew up a joint letter in favour of union and against opium, and in every district in which we work, efficiency, co-operation, and the establishment of a self-propagating church are our supreme objects. In North China proposals are being considered for the formation of one Chinese church to embrace nearly all the churches of the North. The Presbyterian Churches and our own are drawing nearer and nearer together in the Shanghai district, and very soon we may have only one church in the whole of the Amoy region, which comprises half a province.

We unite with the other missions in higher education in Amoy, and in the five districts in which we work, Amoy, Hueian, Changchow North River and Tingchiu, delimitation of territory prevents any overlapping. We are most scrupulously careful in our China fields to do all we can to eliminate waste and prevent duplication.

None of our districts is more in need of a little help than this one. If we could subsidize the schools, and also make it possible for two or three of our best pastors to take the oversight of districts, carrying on evangelistic work and confirming and strengthening the Christians, we should soon build up strong and vigorous churches. £300 per annum spent in this way would yield invaluable results.

British possessions in the Malay Peninsula owe much to the patient toilers who go from this region ; tens of thousands of Chinese leave Amoy every year for the Straits, East Indies and elsewhere.

In Amoy itself, or rather on the little island of Kolongsu, Middle School teaching and Theological College work are carried on in union with other missions, and our various districts supply students, who, after their training in the College, pass out into the surrounding country—Hueian, Changchow, and the North River region.

Tingchiu is so far away that we find it necessary to give our students a theological training on the spot, so that our Tingchiu station is a somewhat self-contained mission which serves a large area.

The great lack in the missionary enterprise of the Amoy field is in higher education. The men in the Theological College have been sent there from the

Middle School, and until we can get high school or college training we cannot have the highly educated men who are needed as church leaders. A school of this higher kind and a first-class theological college will, we expect, be developed soon, and then the present college will continue to serve the very useful function of providing the large number of men who are needed for the ordinary village work of the province.

There are no resident missionaries in the North River district, and the Christians there pray weekly, and have continued to do so for ten years, for foreign missionaries. At present the district is visited occasionally from Changchow or Amoy.

We have hospitals at Changchow and Tingchiu, and an uncompleted one at Hueian, where, however, much fine work is done in spite of the difficulties which lack of accommodation creates ; we are glad to say that funds are now in hand for adding to the building.

It may be interesting to note a few particulars with regard to each of the stations. In Amoy city we have two churches, and on the little island of Kolongsu we have another. These churches are not only self-supporting, but they support some work on the mainland.

From Amoy we reach into two of the neighbouring counties ; in one direction there are six chapels and one preaching place, in another nine chapels and two preaching places, and in a third four chapels. Most of this work is self-supporting.

Changchow, 27 miles from Amoy, is a large and important city, and we are responsible for the evangelistic work of about five counties in this vicinity, including those in the North River district. We have 41 occupied places in this region, and in Changchow itself there are two strong churches and boys' and girls' schools. We are hoping to develop our Changchow girls' school to make it serve the higher educational needs of our Amoy field.

The station at Hueian, about 80 miles from Amoy, is responsible for the thickly populated county of the same name in which we have 27 occupied places. and here too we have girls' and boys' educational work. Most of our workers come from this district, and it would be to our advantage if we could establish a Bible training school at this centre for evangelists.

It is eight or nine days journey to Tingchiu from Amoy. Tingchiu represents a missionary extension of the Chinese church, which was afterwards supplemented by the appointment of missionaries. We work about six counties from this station, and altogether there is a population of about 3,000,000 in this sphere of our labours. We have 13 occupied places and there are ten others which we ought to occupy soon. Our missionaries here are very much isolated and the work is very difficult. The school work is very promising.

In the whole Amoy field, we have 8,673 church members and adherents, 207 Chinese workers and 1,776 scholars in schools.

HONGKONG, CANTON and POKLO.

The island of Hongkong, in which there are 300,000 Chinese, is a British Crown Colony, and a part of the opposite mainland also belongs to Great Britain. Besides a strong self-supporting church, we have three preaching halls in Hongkong. On the mainland we have nine preaching places, and these are worked by the New Territory Evangelisation Society, for which our Chinese church and our missionaries are largely responsible.

To give an idea of the strength of our Hongkong church, it may be stated that it spends about \$600 per annum through the Evangelisation Society for the support of workers, and it gives about \$250 per annum in aid of the Macao branch church, besides subscriptions to the Bible Society, the hospitals, and other Christian institutions.

We have about 15 evangelistic workers in Hongkong and New Territory, and we are responsible for a large number of elementary schools. The Girls' Boarding School is one of the best schools in our China mission ; in this there are about 81 pupils ; we can get more pupils than we have accommodation for, and not long ago we had to turn away 40 applicants ; the Christian tone of this school is splendid. While the largest proportion of the pupils belong to our own mission, some belong to the Wesleyan Mission, the Baptist Mission, the

C.M.S., and the Rhenish Mission ; pupils come from Canton, Poklo and other places, and the school provides teachers for other Girls' Schools. During the past decade 200 girls have passed through this school ; some have gone to be trained in medicine, some have gone out to be teachers, and many are married and are influencing homes of their own. Girls from non-Christian homes have usually made a public confession of their faith before leaving.

In the Women's Bible Training Home we have sometimes as many as 12 women who come for a long or short period, and from these Biblewomen are secured for the work of the district. In our Nurses' Training Institute women get a three years' course ; at present we have about a dozen women in training, and they afterwards go out to do most valuable work. Chinese friends have subscribed enough money to erect a building which is nearing completion, and which will accommodate twenty-four nurses.

We have four hospitals in Hongkong—the Alice Memorial was given by Sir Kai Ho Kai ; the Nethersole by the late W. H. Davis, Esq., of Hongkong ; the Ho Miu Ling was a gift from Madam Wu Ting Fang, wife of the late Minister to the United States ; and the Alice Memorial Maternity Hospital was built with money subscribed by home and Chinese friends. These hospitals have been closely associated with the Hongkong College of Medicine, which now goes to form the nucleus of the Medical Department in the new University. The salary of one of our doctors and half that of one of the nurses is raised on the spot, and all the running expenses of the hospitals are met locally.

The Christian testimony and work of our Medical Mission is of extreme importance at this great centre, and we are now building a hostel in connection with the University, so that we may be able to keep Christian influences playing around our medical and other students who may be attending the University. This hostel work is an urgent necessity, and if the Christian church could provide all that is needed in this direction, we should be able to fill up the gap which exists in this great teaching scheme. The churches here have a magnificent opportunity with a minimum expenditure to exercise a maximum amount of influence upon the Chinese who will be attending the University classes, and who will be ultimately influencing China very profoundly.

Canton is, of course, our oldest station in China ; here Robert Morrison opened the Mission campaign over 100 years ago. It is useful to look back over a considerable period of time and behold what God hath wrought. The early missionaries thought that, considering the enormous difficulties of the task in China, a thousand converts at the end of 100 years would be a rich harvest, and to-day there are ten times that number of Chinese workers scattered throughout the country, and the converts number hundreds of thousands, while vast numbers more have been influenced by and are interested in Christianity.

The evangelistic opportunities in this huge city and in the neighbouring great city of Fatshan are enormous, but unfortunately our Mission is weak in numbers and we have no lady missionaries to carry on school and women's work. If we could have two ladies for this department of mission enterprise, some money for educational work, and some for the extension of our evangelistic work, we should be able to reap an abundant harvest.

Our self-supporting church in Canton was up till lately ministered to by one of the ablest pastors in China, who also carried on a theological class in connection with his church for the training of men for the Christian ministry. This pastor has just been summoned to Peking to assist the Government.

From Canton and Poklo we work in three counties. At Poklo, a day's journey from Canton, we carry on evangelistic and church work. On the banks of the river near the town grows the Martyr's Tree ; this marks the spot where one of our early Chinese preachers suffered martyrdom for his faith ; he was one of the noble army whose work bears a rich harvest to-day. He has had many successors and we need have no fear for the continued success of our campaign when we have such men in our ranks as Pastor Ch'eng of Peking, Dr. Tsou of Hankow, Pastor Sung of Shanghai, Pastor Chiu of Amoy, and Pastor Yang of Canton.

In the whole Hongkong district we have :—67 Chinese workers, 1,791 Church members and adherents, and 1,167 scholars.